



Solihull & District Orchid Society

Spring Show

- Saturday 31st March

The spring show on Easter Saturday is rushing towards us and preparations are well underway.

There are still a few spaces on the various rotas so if you are coming to the next meeting and feel able to add your name to any of the rotas we would be pleased if you added your name. If you are not coming to the meeting but wish to help please let Malcolm know.



Coach Trip to Wisley

20 members have now signed up for the trip to Wisley on Sunday 5th August so if you

haven't yet booked your space look out for the sheet which be circulating at the next meeting but if you can't make the next meeting and would like to join us for the Trip please let Malcolm know.

Next Meeting

On Saturday March 3rd our newest member Dr. John Page will be giving a talk on "The Flowers of Spain – including Orchids". John has given a number of talks to the society focussed on Terrestrials in the UK and across Europe and these have all been informative and enjoyable. I am sure this will be another enjoyable afternoon and one not to be missed.



You can follow Solihull & District Orchid Society on Facebook and Twitter



Chairman: Malcolm Moodie
01295 788159

If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: caroline.reid1@blueyonder.co.uk or copy and pictures for newsletter: ballm1@mac.com

BOC Photo Competition

If you haven't voted for your favourite photographs time is running out.

Go to www.british-orchid-council.info and go to the pull down menu "Photo Competition" and run the current Gallery Slide Show. Once you have selected your



favourites you can go to "View Current Photo Gallery" and take a more detailed look at those pictures you have selected.

All you have to do is select your favourite 10 and send them to Malcolm (laeliaM@aol.com).

The date for sending your votes to Malcolm is Friday 23rd February so please send them as soon as possible

Extreme methods of orchid culture

Malcolm Perry

We may think that orchids require very specific growing conditions. However, if one looked closely at orchids in the wild - these plants often grow in very extreme conditions.

Malcolm started this talk showing a picture of *Eria spirodela* growing in Laos on a rock with no sun protection or growth medium around the roots.

The plant received not a drop of rain for months, yet the plant looked well developed with multiple growths.

Another picture showed *Aerides ringens* growing on a dead tree at the top of the canopy, again with no protection from the sun with leaves red and shriveled and yet the plant had multiple flower spikes. Another one he showed was a *Dendrobium* growing on pure limestone, where it was misty, cold and wet throughout the year.

Orchid growers tend to use different methods of culture that are suited to their environment but maybe they should take a leaf from nature and try a method that is more extreme??

Malcolm introduced different growing mediums he brought along: clay granules, tufa, acadama (bonsai growing medium) and builder's vermiculite which a friend of his uses extensively.

This friend does everything differently from everybody else but grows plants to specimen size using extreme

methods which seem to work very well for him as is shown by the many awards he has won.

He has a 48ft long greenhouse that is unshaded with vents that are open throughout the year. He never sprays or waters his plants over the top as they are all standing in paddling pools.

His plants are standing in two trays: one with holes - another filled with vermiculite. He mainly grows *Cattleyas* but also likes to grow miniature water lilies and pineapples.

He ignores modern publications and seeks out very old ones as he believes the best advice is found there.

Malcolm mainly grows *Coelogynes* and *Bulbophyllums* which are all standing in water throughout the year.

He brought *Bulbophyllum monstrabile* growing in live sphagnum in a potting tray that stands in water and it was growing extremely well. In the Philippines this plant grows in swamps,

He suggested that we all try and grow plants from June to November standing in water, just to see the difference in the growth spurs they will achieve. After all this is only replicating monsoon conditions.

He concluded by stating that there is no right or wrong way of growing orchids - it's finding what suits one's conditions the best for the species grown.



Lina Smalinske

February Table points



Phalaenopsis amabilis - 29pts - Malcolm Moodie



Paph. primulinum - 28pts - Malcolm Moodie



Masdevallia triangularis x Gwendoline - 24pts - Stan Taylor



**Lc. Puppy Love True Beauty AM-AOS
- 25pts - Malcolm Moodie**



**Holcoglossum flavencis x Rhynchostylis gigantea
- 26pts - Monica Johnson**



Erycina crista-galli - 30pts - Stan Taylor